

Admiral Calls It 'Best'**Navy Lauds Herald Ham Radio Column**

—Herald-Express Photo

'BEST IN ANY AMERICAN NEWSPAPER'**Tom Cargo Holds Naval Citation Awarded for His Herald-Express Column, 'Ham on Air'**

The Los Angeles Herald-Express today was officially commended by the United States Navy for its amateur radio operator column which it praised as **the best in the nation.**

The official United States Navy Department proclamation commended Herald-Express Publisher George R. Hearst Jr. and columnist Tom Cargo, whose "Ham on Air" column appears each Saturday in this newspaper.

Cargo, a "ham" radio operator himself, also authored a series of articles on radio amateurs which ran earlier this year.

David Sentner, Washington Bureau chief of the Hearst Newspapers, accepted the award on behalf of Publisher Hearst from Rear Adm. Frank Virden, director of naval communications for the Office of Chief of Naval Operations.

BEST IN U. S.

Adm. Virden was lavish in his praise of the articles, terming them the best done in any American newspaper.

"Amateur radio activity provides the nation with a technological pool and a reservoir of skills which only time, tenacity, money and personal desire can produce under voluntary circumstances. These are the tangibles," Adm. Virden said.

Adm. Virden heaped additional praise on the Herald-Express, saying:

"The articles were unprecedented in frequency and length among all American newspapers."

The navy has been especially interested in fostering ham radio operations throughout the country, Adm. Virden went on.

Ham operators have been invaluable as communications relayers for the nation's civil defense programs and have long records of service in helping during disasters.

In addition to their emergency work, American ham operators handle hundreds of thousands of messages a year free to servicemen overseas.

"WELL DONE"

Adm. Virden concluded his remarks by saying:

"It is with pleasure, then, that the navy and naval communications say, 'Well done' to you, to the Los Angeles Herald-Express and Tom Cargo."

Hearst and Cargo were presented with certificates naming them "Honorary Naval Communicators" as additional symbols of appreciation.

DON'T BE ALONE